

of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING DR. GARY BRANCH
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend, Dr. Gary Branch, on his retirement as President of Coastal Alabama Community College (CACC). Dr. Branch leaves a legacy of deep devotion to his staff and students, exceptional leadership by example, and has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless members of our community.

Dr. Branch inherited an institution waiting for a leader such as himself. At the start of his tenure in 1981, he had to make the difficult decision to let go thirteen employees from then-Faulkner State College in the midst of a financial crisis. In true form, Dr. Branch was able to hire nearly all of them back to the college and has never faced another such crisis since.

Moving ever upward from his start, Dr. Branch oversaw immense growth in enrollment at CACC, from 1,100 students at one location in 1981 to now nearly 8,000 students in ten counties. Not only has he spearheaded increased opportunity for students in south Alabama, he also instituted the annual Student Leadership Retreat, Gatlinburg Getaway; the Black Ministerial Dinner and scholarship awards; the High School Counselor's Dinners; the Scholar Bowl; and has overseen the creation of a women's intercollegiate softball league, leading to an impressive softball stadium benefiting our entire community.

Throughout his entire time as President, Dr. Branch has constantly pushed for greater accessibility to post-secondary education for all students in Alabama. To this end, he was chairman of the committee that created the Statewide Transfer Articulation and Reporting System, allowing associate-degree-holding students to transfer to four-year universities in Alabama, and fought for CACC to benefit from state sales tax in Baldwin County. Possibly most notable, he oversaw the consolidation of Faulkner State and other institutions into Coastal Alabama Community College.

From my personal experience with him during my time as Chancellor of Alabama's Community College system, I can attest to Dr. Branch's steadfast commitment to Southwest Alabama, our students, and our economy. His impact will undoubtedly live on for many, many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible service of Dr. Gary Branch as he leaves a legacy of 37 years to a grateful community. It is difficult to express our gratitude in mere words, but on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, we simply say: thank you.

COST ESTIMATE ON H.R. 6374 FIT
ACT

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, the following cost estimate for H.R. 6374, FIT Act prepared by the Congressional Budget Office was not available to the Committee at the time of filing of the legislative report.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 6374, the Fitness Information Transparency Act of 2018.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be please to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 6374—*Fitness Information Transparency Act of 2018*

H.R. 6374 would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), within 180 days of enactment, to issue uniform fitness (or conduct) standards for hiring contract employees that must be followed by all DHS agencies. Within one year of enactment, DHS would have to provide contractors with monthly updates on the status of their employees' fitness determinations and collect quarterly data on processing times for fitness investigations.

Using information from DHS, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost about \$1 million in fiscal year 2019 and less than \$500,000 annually thereafter; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Most costs would be for technological enhancements to a system to provide accurate monthly updates on the status of contract employees' fitness determinations. DHS currently employs thousands of contract employees.

Enacting H.R. 6374 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6374 would not increase net direct spending or on budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 6374 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
NATHAN SCHWAB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nathan Schwab of Clive, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Nathan is a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 208 of the Mid Iowa Council.

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Approximately

5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Nathan's Eagle Scout Project was completed for the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt—Polk County Conservation. Nathan built 16 American Kestrel nesting boxes to help increase the population of this bird in central Iowa. He also donated the extra funds from his fundraising to Polk County Conservation. The work ethic Nathan has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nathan and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEN AND
JULIA FALKE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and thank Ken and Julia Falke, founders of the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness in Bluemont, Virginia, and the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Warrior Foundation, for their extraordinary efforts to support our nation's wounded warriors and their families.

Last year, a special ceremony unveiled a statue of a Naval modification to the Battle Cross on the grounds of the Boulder Crest Retreat, honors those military heroes who lost their lives in combat, in training and in the struggle against the "invisible injuries of war that followed them home." Ken Falke's inspiration for the statue was the beautiful memorial erected in San Diego, to the four members of EOD Mobile Unit Three who had been killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Boulder Crest Retreat is the nation's first privately-funded rural wellness center dedicated exclusively to our nation's combat veterans and their families. Opened in 2013, it has offered a beautiful setting for more than 2,500 veterans and their families to rest, reconnect and recharge. Motivated by a limitless desire to serve combat veterans, especially the 11 percent to 20 percent of Iraqi and Afghan war vets who suffer from post-traumatic stress (PTS), Ken and Julia have ventured into modes of therapy and support that are outside the mainstream. As a Navy bomb-disposal expert who was seriously injured in a 1989 parachute jump, Ken had learned firsthand in his recovery from traumatic brain injury and a broken back, not to rely on medicines alone. Later, through their work with the